



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **FUGITIVE FEATURED ON “AMERICAS MOST WANTED” TV SHOW APPREHENDED BY FEDERAL TASK FORCE**

*Armed robber and fugitive escaped from a Kentucky jail in August*

DETROIT — A man featured on the “Americas Most Wanted” television show and charged with 37 counts of armed robbery and kidnapping, was apprehended in Detroit today by a Federal Fugitive Operations Task Force consisting of officers from U.S. Marshals Service and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Tommy Hardin, 32, escaped from jail Aug. 29 in his hometown of Elizabeth, Ky., along with Albert Jecker. Hardin has been charged with 37 counts of armed robbery following a rash of gang robberies that plagued central Kentucky in 2003. In some of the cases, the armed robbers bound, gagged and even stabbed restaurant workers while holding victims at gunpoint. Police say the thieves also pistol-whipped some of their victims, and fondled and threatened to rape some female victims. Hardin has confessed to being the man in a surveillance photo from a robbery at a Louisville Blockbuster.



"It is always satisfying to get a very dangerous individual off the streets," said Robert Grubbs, U.S. Marshal in Detroit. "The Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team is a shining example of cooperation and teamwork between federal and state agencies in southeast Michigan. We are very proud of what we have built, and what we do for the community."

"The collaboration we've enjoyed with the U.S. Marshals Service has been outstanding," said Rob Baker, field office director for ICE Detention and Removal Operations in Detroit. "Today's apprehension of Mr. Hardin is a perfect example of the joint efforts between ICE Detention and Removal Operations and the U.S. Marshals to rid our streets of violent fugitives. We appreciate the opportunity to assist in this operation."

Hardin remains in U.S. Marshals custody.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*